

## Message Text

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20

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NEA-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PRS-01 MC-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

ACDA-10 /059 W

----- 033593

R 211213 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4174

DOD WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 2571

LIMDIS

DOD FOR ISA; CONGEN DHAHRAN PASS CHUSMTM

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, SA

SUBJECT: PRINCE SULTAN REQUESTS US ASSISTANCE IN

DISPOSAL OF T-33' S AND F-86' S

SUMMARY: MODA PRINCE SULTAN HAS ASKED USG TO ASSIST IN DISPOSING OF RSAF' S T-33' S AND F-86' S BY EITHER ( A ) BUYING AIRPLANES BACK FOR ITSELF, OR ( B ) AUTHORIZING THEIR TRANSFER-- SOURCE OF SPARE PARTS -- TO PAKISTAN. AIRCRAFT AT PRESENT ARE A LIABILITY TO RSAF' S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ; EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF STATE AND DOD COULD EXAMINE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFER OR FIND SOME MEANS WHEREBY SAUDIS COULD RECEIVE PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR AIRCRAFT AND THEIR SPARES. END SUMMARY

1. DURING AMB' S MEETING WITH MODA PRINCE SULTAN JUNE 20, PRINCE RAISED QUESTION OF SAG' S AGING T-33' S AND F-86' S. THESE AIRCRAFT HE SAID HAD BECOME A LIABILITY TO RSAF' S OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS SINCE MANPOWER, HANGAR AND STORAGE SPACE THEY REQUIRED COULD BE PUT TO  
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BETTER USE ELSEWHERE. IT WAS PRINCE'S HOPE THAT WE COULD ASSIST MODA WITH ITS DISPOSAL PROBLEM EITHER BY (A) BUYING BACK AIRCRAFT OURSELVES OR (B) APPROVING THEIR SALE TO PAKISTAN. WITH REGARD TO OPTION (B) PRINCE EXPLAINED THAT PAKISTANIS PLANNED USE AIRCRAFT ONLY AS A SOURCE OF SPARE PARTS TO KEEP THEIR OWN T-33'S AND F-86'S IN COMMISSION.

2. AMB AGREED WITH PRINCE THAT IT SEEMED WISE- IN VIEW OF MODA'S OTHER PROGRAMS- FOR RSAF TO REMOVE THESE AIRCRAFT FROM INVENTORY. HE DOUBTED VERY MUCH WHETHER USG WOULD ITSELF BE INTERESTED AND IN FACT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE DEMAND FOR THESE AIRCRAFT SINCE THEY ARE BEING PHASED OUT ALMOST EVERYWHERE. HE UNDERTOOK, HOWEVER, TO TRANSMIT PRINCE'S FORMAL REQUEST FOR OUR ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE IN THIS MATTER TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY WELCOMES SUMTAN'S DECISION TO GET RID OF RSAF'S OVER-AGED T-33'S AND F-86'S. SEVEN T-33'S REMAIN BUT ARE TOTALLY INOPERATIVE AND WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE TO MAKE OPERATIONAL AGAIN. THE 13 REMAINING F-86'S HAVE BEEN KEPT ON FLYABLE BASIS ONLY BY ABSORBING SERVICES SOME FIVE SAUDI PILOTS AND 25 OPERATIONAL MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL. AT SAME TIME FORTH F-5 PROJECT AND BRITISH LIGHTING PROGRAM (WHICH IS BEING STEPPED UP THROUGH ACCELERATED UK EFFORT TO IMPROVE IT EFFECTIVENESS) WILL BE PLACING INCREASING DEMANDS ON SAUDI RESOURCES AND MANPOWER. (ONLY ONE T-33 AIRCRAFT IS MAP, BUT FULL TITLE TO MAP F-86'S WAS TRANSFERRED TO SAG UNDER SPECIFIC AGREEMENT IN 1965. TRANSFER OF TWELVE T-33'S TO RSAF ACCOMPLISHED VIA FMS IN 1967-68.)

4. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE, OF COURSE, IF SOME MEANS COULD BE FOUND FOR DISPOSAL OF AIRCRAFT IN MANNER WHEREBY SAUDIS MIGHT RECEIVE PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR AIRFRAMES AND THEIR ACCUMULATED SPARES. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF DOD COULD AGAIN EXAMINE THIS POSSIBILITY AND IF STATE AND DOD MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER CONCURRING IN TRANSFER OF F-86'S TO PAKISTAN FOR CANNABALIZATION AS SULTAN HAS SUGGESTED. WE WOULD ASSUME THAT UNDER PRESENT POLICY IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE APPROVE

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AT LEAST TRANSFER OF AVAILABLE F-86 SPARE PARTS TO GOP. SULTAN WILL BE PLEASED BY WHATEVER COOPERATION WE CAN GIVE HIM IN THIS MATTER. THACHER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

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**TAGS:** MASS, SA, US  
**To:** DHAHRAN  
DOD WASHDC  
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